Complaints from teachers of aided schools regarding payment of pay.

Mr. C. A. KUNJUNNI RAJA.

254. Will the Government be pleased to state whether, during the past 3 years, the Education Department including the Inspectors has received any oral or written complaints from any of the teachers of aided schools, regarding the irregular payment or payment less than the sanctioned or recognised amount of their salaries by the managing authorities? If so, what action has been taken in each? Had any of such cases come to the notice of the departmental officers, and any action taken in the matter?

Mr. C. MATTHAI.

A statement containing the information, so far as can be gathered from the records available, is appended. (*Vide Appendix VII.*)

The minimum strength in Schools.

Mr. I. E. AMBOOKAN.

255. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the recent order of the Government that every class or division in an aided school should have a minimum strength of 30 is one that can be complied with by all schools in the State?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of applications that have been received by the Director of Public Instruction requesting exemption from the above rule?

(c) Is it a fact that Government does not enforce the above rule in schools conducted by the Government?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether this can be applied equally in both rural and urban areas?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are schools conducted by the Government which can be abolished or handed over to private agencies without any sort of inconvenience to the Government or the public of the locality?

Mr. C. MATTHAI.

(a) It depends upon the enthusiasm of the Managers, the teachers and the people of the locality. In hard cases exemptions have been granted.

(b) 79.

(c) No; in several schools where the strength was low, classes have been abolished and divisions of classes clubbed.

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